huge payments had been made in secret Swiss Bank accounts by the Bofors in the Howitzer gun deal so that an Indian Court, Judge or Magistrate could seek Swiss help for knowing about the recipients of the Bofors payments;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what strategy Government have adopted in this case to proceed with?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) A case has been registered by the CBI.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided to continue the investigation.

Bill to ban sex determination tests

*209. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a Bill in the Current session of Parliament for banning sex-selective foeticide;

(b) if so, what are the mani features of this Bill; and

(c) whether Government also propose to invite public opinion on banning the sex-determination tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The proposed legislation would aim at banning of the abuse of amniocentesis and other pre-natal tests that are now sometime misused to determine the sex so that female foatus can be aborted. The Bill would seek to forbid these tests in private clinics restricting them to State Government, Local Self Government hospitals, approved institutions and clinical research institutions. The Bill would also seek to provide for stringent punishment for those who violate the ban on such tests. A detailed legislation in this regard is under preparation.

(c) The Government is already aware of public opinion demanding regulation of sex determination tests. It is in response to this opinion that the Government has decided to consider introducing, as early as possible, a legislation to regulate sex-determination tests. There is no need to invite public opinion on this issue as such.

*210 (*Cancelled.*)

HS 748 Military Freighter Aircraft

*211. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the Army, and the Air Force had categorically stated that HS-748 military freighter aircraft did not meet their requirements and even then it was inducted into the Army and Air Force; if so, the reasons for which the advice of both the Army and the Air Force was ignored;

(b) whether an investment of about Rs. 76.84 crore, thus made by Government, became largely infructuous;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether the aircraft's performance has forced the Indian Air Force to continue their search for a suitable aircraft in the Medium Tactical Transport Aircraft role, if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (d) The need for a suitable Medium Tactical Transport Aircraft (METAC) to replace the Dakota and Packet aircraft of the IAF was felt as early as in 1965. Between 1965 and 1972, a number of aircraft available in the world market were, therefore, evaluated. None of the aircraft was found to be suitable to meet our requirements. In view of this, and in view of the fact that the

HS-748 M aircraft were already under production in the country by M|s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), it was decided to induct the aircraft into the Indian Air Force. This aircraft had some limitations in the METAC role, but was still chosen temporarily, pending the availability of a suitable aircraft, since the other aircraft evaluated were not found suitable and the HS-748 M was under production indigenously. This decision helped the development of the indigenous aeronautical industry and also avoided idle labour and redundancy at M|s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The search for a suitable METAC was, however, continued and finally, the Soviet AN-32 aircraft was selected for this role and was contracted for in 1981. Since the HS-748 M aircraft was being used in the METAC Role, the expenditure incurred on account of their acquisition cannot be said to have been infructuous.

Mysterious disease in Sonia Vihar, Delhi

*212. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mysterious disease like cholera claimed the lives of five children in Sonia Vihar, near Wazirabad Bridge in Delhi recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 16,000 population of the said colony are forced to drink water from shallow tubewells, which is not fit for health; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent such disease in the future and to provide clear drinking water to the colony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Five deaths of children were reported from Sonia Vihar in the month of July, 1989. The cases of deaths were investigated both by Delhi Administration as well as the National Institute of Communicable Diseases. In all the cases investigated the symptoms of diarrhoea and vomitting had been noticed. However, the deaths were not due to Cholera.

(b) and (c) Even though Sonia Vihar is an unauthorised colony, the Delhi Administration is supplying potable water for drinking and cooking purposes only through tankers.

The preventive measures undertaken by the Delhi Administration are:

1. Supply of potable drinking water to the residents of the colony for drinking and cooking purposes through tankers.

2. Supply of Chlorine tablets to the residents for purification of water.

3. Distribution of Oral Rehydration Salt packets.

4. Distribution of pamphlets to propagate preventive measures and use of home based remedies.

5. Provision of mobile dispensary for primary medical care facilities.

B.Sc. (Nursing) in P. G. Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh

*213. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates who had applied for the B. Sc. (Nursing) course at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh during the last three years, year-wise, and the number of them who were first class holders;

(b) the number of students who were admitted to the B. Sc. (Nursing) course at the Institute during the above period, what were the criteria of selection;

(c) the number of first class holders among the rejected candidates; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the number of seats, offered in view of the increased demand for qualified nurses in the country?